ARSENAL

SURREALIST SUBVERSION

BULLETIN OF SURREALIST INFORMATION --- PRESS RELEASE --- 28th March 1974 (Chicago)

ROBERT GREEN, SURREALIST, IMPRISONED IN MEXICO WITHOUT CHARGE!

Robert Green, of Chicago, age 33, an active participant in the surrealist movement, has been arrested without charge and imprisoned in the Penitenceria Cerro Huceo in Chiapas, Mexico. He had been sojourning in Mexico throughout the winter, specifically to paint, draw, and pursue other research into the irritability of the deepest psychic sources of inspiration and revelation.

No idle tourist, Green has frequently and willingly put his technical knowledge and skills at the service of the Mexican people; on one occasion, for example, he assisted the residents of a small rural village in sinking a new well which proved enormously beneficial to the community.

Thirty-five other U.S. and Canadian citizens, and at least 150 Mexican Indians, were also arrested and held without charge. Several of the U.S. and Canadian citizens have been subsequently deported after being forced to sign false, incriminating statements without benefit of legal counsel or adequate translators. It is noteworthy that the U.S. and Canadian prisoners are kept entirely separated from the Indians, thus prohibiting any exchanges of information. There are rumors of guerilla warfare in Chiapas and Oaxaca. Officials at the Mexican Embassy in Chicago acknowledge that "something is going on" in Chiapas but insist that they lack "details."

Robert Green is perhaps best known for his paintings and constructions --- irreversible transformations which not only call into question all conventional human motives, but also constitute implacable temptations for the Great Invisibles that lurk in the shadows of fear and objective chance. In keeping with the surrealist orientation at this time and place, Green refuses on principle to exhibit his works in commercial galleries or museums. However, a number of his paintings and projects were featured at the non-profit-making and cooperatively run Gallery Bugs Bunny (now defunct) in Chicago during 1968-70. Among his savage inventions --- devices designed to mercilessly criticize western civilization from the vantage-point of another world --- let us mention only his celebrated Doorbell which would instantly chop off the finger of anyone who pressed the button.

Green has also undertaken several important surrealist experiments with the intention of intervening directly on the most irrational plane of everyday life. Last fall,

for example, he dressed a parking meter on Rush Street, supplying it with wig, lips, arms, hands, an uplifted leg, rudimentary costume, etc. Of this effort "to provoke and assess the oneiric perturbability of passersby" the BULLETIN OF SURREALIST INFORMATION (No. 4, December 1973) commented:

> "The pursuit of such experimentation will doubtless unveil much of the erotic and paranoiac sensibilities of the 'discontinuous' crowd as its constituents pass from one distraction to another. In this preliminary step the unobtrusive but nonetheless head-on confrontation with an image of concrete irrationality posed the question to each who passed: 'What is this?' --- the latent content of which, however, could only be: "Who am I?'"

(Further documentation, including photographs, of this experiment is tentatively scheduled to appear in the third issue of ARSENAL/SURREALIST SUBVERSION, journal of the surrealist movement in the United States.)

Confined in the penitentiary, Green is currently reduced to flicking off his arms various small bugs which, if unmolested, leave red welts on one's skin.

At such moments the Mexican Revolution --- the Revolution of Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, Ricardo Flores Magon and Tomas Garrido Canabal --- seems farther away than ever!

At such moments, too, it is plain that the surrealist slogan, "OPEN THE PRISONS! DISBAND THE ARMY!" --- originally proclaimed in the journal LA REVOLUTION SURREALISTE in Paris, 1925 --- has lost none of its burning actuality.

POSADA "REVOLUTIONARY CAPTURED BY THE RURALS" ("Revolucionario Aprehendido por los Rurales")
(relief etching on zinc) 3 1/8 X 5"

Messages of protest may be addressed to local Mexican Embassies and Tourist Bureaus, as well as to the Warden, Penitenceria Cerro Huceo, Tuxtla de ~~Gutz~~ GUTTIERREZ, Chiapas, Mexico. ~~Messages of solidarity may be addressed to Green c/o Debra Taub, Lista de Correos, Tuxtla de Gutz, Chiapas, Mexico.~~

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We would appreciate your sending us copies of any reprints or adaptations of the foregoing text, as well as leaflets, copies of protest letters, and other relevant material. Please send to M. Lenoir, 2257 North Janssen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614.